

Nevada – Status of the FAA UAS Test Site Designation

*A March 5, 2014 Briefing for the Nevada
Joint Military Affairs Committee*

Nevada Governor's Office of

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Requirements

The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (FMRA) states:

“...the Administrator shall establish a program to integrate unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system at six test ranges...”

Site Designation Process

- February 14, 2013: Solicitation for proposals from public entities
 - Received 25 applications, including 24 states
- November 2013: Test site privacy requirements published
- Initial delays to selection due to need to develop privacy policy
- December 30, 2013: Test sites awarded

Why Nevada Participated

- AUVSI's “2013 Economic Report”
 - The UAS global market is currently \$6.6 billion
 - Over the next 10 years, the UAS global market will double, for a total of \$140 billion
 - The economic impact of US airspace integration will total over \$13.6 billion in the first three years and will grow sustainably for the foreseeable future, cumulating to over \$82.1 billion between 2015 and 2025
 - Every year that airspace integration is delayed will cost the U.S. over \$10 billion in lost potential economic impact, which translates to \$27 million per day



Nevada Construct

- Two main prongs for UAS industry growth in Nevada
 - FAA UAS Test Site sponsorship/application
 - Growth of the industry due to organic “clustering.”
 - Existed and will continue to grow irrespective of FAA Test Site designation.

Test Site Standup - timeline

Per the FMRA:

- “A project at a test range shall be operational not later than 180 days after the date on which the project is established.”
- June 28, 2014: First test site must be up and running (may occur earlier)
- February 13, 2017: Test site operations may conclude
- June 2017: Final report due to Congress within 90 days of the test site program

Nevada's Test Sites

- The four Test Site were chosen based on their unique characteristics:
 - high security to low security
 - range of users fees charged
 - location to metropolitan areas while maintaining privacy and safety setbacks

Nevada's Test Sites

- Stead Airport (Reno Tahoe Airport Authority)
- Fallon Municipal (City of Fallon)
- Boulder City Municipal (Boulder City)
- Desert Rock Airstrip (NNSA/ NSTec)

Other Designees

- University of Alaska
- New York Griffiss International Airport
- North Dakota Department of Commerce
- Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

Test Site Standup

Will require Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)

- Restricted to Public Aircraft Operators only

Test Site End-State Vision

- “Test Site” Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)
- Delegated Experimental certificates
- Will enable civil operations
- Limited to test site only
- Delegated Safety Management System (SMS) process
- Annual audits of compliance with process

FAA Privacy Policy

- Although FAA has no statutory authority, privacy identified early on as an issue that needed to be addressed
- FAA developed draft privacy approach for the Test Sites and posted for public comment
- Final privacy strategy for the Test Sites released on November 7, 2013

Test Site Research

- **General Research and Development (R&D) goals for test sites may include, but are not limited to:**
 - System safety and data gathering
 - UAS aircraft certification
 - UAS command and control link
 - UAS control station layout and certification standards
 - UAS ground and airborne sense and avoid technologies
 - Assess environmental impacts of UAS operations
- **Ranges not yet approved**
 - Currently all test sites plan to begin activities in Class G airspace (below flight level 600)
- **No FAA funding**

Industry Opportunities

- Evaluating State legislative opportunities for next session
 - E.g. tax incentives, community ED zones
 - Communities to examine and leverage physical assets
 - Today's workshop
 - Discuss processes
 - Examine difficulties/impediments
 - Look beyond the “platform”
 - Software development
 - Data management
 - ISR gathering for industry
 - Cinematography/movie production industry
 - Develop supply chain organically or attract out-of-state industry
 - Think internationally (e.g. Alberta MOU)
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Next Steps

- Message: Nevada is Open for Business
 - Spread Nevada narrative to global audience.
 - Play to Nevada strengths (e.g., testing expertise, business climate)
 - Nevada to assist FAA/industry with privacy discussion
 - Continued successful presence at AUVSI
 - Explicit respect for DoD assets and missions
 - Expanded discussion into autonomous systems and driverless cars construct (e.g. NATC).
 - Increased opportunities for STEM education/ Lt. Gov. Krolicki
 - Total “Team Nevada” approach for the Autonomous Systems Industry.

For Additional Information

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